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STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**BEFORE THE
SECOND COMMITTEE (ECONOMIC)**

**ON THE
PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE
IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY
INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM, AND OF THE ARAB POPULATION
IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN
OVER THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES
(A/62/75 – E/2207/13 AND A/C.2/62/6)**

**62ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY – NEW YORK
MONDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2007**

In the name of Allah, The Merciful, The Compassionate

Madame Chair,

I wish to express the appreciation of my country's delegation to the Secretary General for submitting the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), document (A/62/75-E/2007/13) concerning the economic and social effects of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, and on the Arab inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan.

Madame Chair,

This report unequivocally confirms that the exacerbation of the severity of economic and social suffering as well as the deterioration of the health situation has become the main characteristic in the areas that fall under the Israeli occupation as a result of illegal oppressive measures, the excessive and unjustified use of military force, which caused heavy losses of life among the Palestinian civilian population, this is over and above the destruction of the infrastructure as well as imposing measures of isolation in a variety of forms, from restricting the movement of the Palestinian population, to imposing closures and many other forms of siege represented in the arbitrary arrest and detention of great numbers and continuing to build the barrier wall in the occupied Palestinian territories, which extends to 703 kilometers, an increase of 33 kilometers compared with the previous plan, which will redouble the economic and social suffering in the occupied territories especially under the plan of expanding the building of settlements.

Such behavior represents a clear and flagrant challenge to the rules of international humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Convention of 1949, as well as being a serious violation of the international law of human rights and other international criteria and relevant resolutions of international legitimacy, and runs contrary to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004.

Madame Chair,

All the practices of the Israeli military machine and the sum of all the measures taken by the occupation authority have prevented the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the Arab inhabitants of the Syrian Golan, from obtaining the minimum basic elements of life and deprived them from the most basic rules of freedom and human dignity, which leaves them way too far from reaching the Millennium Developments Goals.

Allow me in this regard to refer to some facts which confirm what I have just stated:

- **The construction of the barrier wall have created a pattern of internal displacement and forced many people all over the West Bank to relocate. It also caused the loss of more than 700 Palestinian families their livelihood represented in agricultural land and have blocked 60,500 Palestinians from reaching to the source of their livelihood. Also, the rate of unemployment continued to climb whereas it reached 30% and 40% respectively.**
- **In this regard, and in what relates to the sector of agriculture, water and the environment, the Israeli army has destroyed over 6,516 dunums of agricultural land in the Gaza Strip, in addition to confiscating more 6,950 dunums of land in the south, center and north of the West bank. The Palestinian people living under the occupation are prevented from reaching 95% of their water resources, departing from the policy of destruction to the infrastructure that the occupation authority follows and which reached 403 water wells.**
- **The report also shows that there were 697 cases of death and also 3,558 cases of injuries reported among the Palestinian population during the period January 2006 to February 2007, among those there were 132 cases of death and 515 cases of injury of children. No fewer than 28 of those killed and 120 of those wounded were school children.**

- **In the context of the policy of arbitrary arrests and detentions, over 9,400 Palestinian political prisoners remain in jail, it is also worth noting that there are 120 female political prisoners, among those are girls under 18 years old. In this regard, one cannot ignore the painful fact and the social and material effects of the abusive treatment of women and their suffering under the occupation and the lack of adequate medical treatment as the report shows.**
- **In the occupied Syrian Golan, the report confirms the continued Israeli practice of building settlements and the depletion of natural resources in a manner that would prevent their owners from the right of reaping benefits from these resources.**

Madame Chair,

Finally the report shows that Israel, the occupying power, continues to purposely violate International law through its systematic aggression, occupation and destruction of the natural resources of the lands of the occupied, which requires the international community to take a clear and specific stand, which concurs with the efforts of a comprehensive settlement in order to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the area, and the attainment of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories as well as the Syrian people in the Golan of all their lawful rights according to the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy.

Thank you Madame Chair.